

From: John Dwight
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 9:00am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs and Madams,

While the proposed settlement of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. MICROSOFT CORPORATION, Defendant, Civil Action No. 98-1232 goes a ways towards offering relief for OEMs, I believe the public and OEMS will still be in endangered unless two critical areas are addressed and awarded justice and relief. They are

1. The deep entrenchment of Microsoft operating systems in the Federal Government.

and

2. Microsoft, The Public Internet, and Microsoft's .NET Initiative.

Item 1: While the government has been slow to recognize and act regarding the abuse in connection with the monopoly of Microsoft in the crucial area of operating systems, with the advancement of this suit and the absolute documentation of Microsoft abuse of it's monopoly position progress can now be made.

For the Federal Government to recognize and acknowledge the long standing harm done to the public, said OEMs and competitors by the abuse of monopoly power by the Microsoft Corp. on the one hand, and on the other to openly and actively promote the Microsoft operating systems in it's daily operation is a hypocritical and a huge miscarriage of justice.

Recommended solution: Set an example for the public and remove the offending Microsoft products from the Federal purchasing system or encourage the use of alternatives by enforcing the requirement of a serious justification for the purchase of new Microsoft products and continued use of legacy Microsoft products with an aim to the eventual removal of Microsoft operating systems from the Federal Government. Or simply ban the use of Microsoft products by the Federal Gov't.

At an anecdotal level, I am Federal employee of the Smithsonian Institution (henceforth referred to as S.I.) operating a web site on their behalf. I have viewed with alarm the increasing enforced reliance upon and blind insistence on the use and preference of Microsoft Operating systems for the operation of the Smithsonian's large and varied web presence. Documents available from the S.I. Webmasters office advise all of the many other S.I. webmasters to switch to Windows 2000 and the Microsoft Internet Information Server web server software (henceforth referred to as IIS). This despite

daily documentation by the expert public at large that IIS is the least secure method of operating a web site, as well as the most expensive system when support costs are accounted for. This is a blatant tactic on the S.I.'s part to pander to and court a huge potential donor, Microsoft, as well as a shameful waste of public moneys. The appearance and encouragement of Gov't. collusion with a known abusive and criminal monopolist is offensive, unjust, and unwise.

Item 2: Microsoft's pattern of behavior in it's destruction of WordPerfect, and Netscape, it's elimination of Apple's ubiquitous QuickTime video from serious competition is again evident in it's proposed .NET initiative, with the eventual removal of freedoms and choice from the Internet-using public as it's aim. Clearly Microsoft has shown no remorse for it's actions. The concepts behind the .Net initiative must be studied and finally outlawed if the public is to avoid paying an "Internet tax" to the Microsoft Corp. in the future.

Sincerely,

John Dwight
webmaster

National Museum of the American Indian - a Smithsonian Institution
<http://www.conexus.si.edu/>